

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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APPROVED BY CU/EA:RLNICHOLS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213907

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF MAYORS DELEGATION TO PRC

1. THE PRC LIAISON OFFICE INFORMED THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS (NCUSCR) SEPTEMBER 8 THAT MAYOR OF SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO WAS STILL NOT ACCEPTABLE AS MEMBER OF MAYORS' DELEGATION SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE PRC FROM SEPTEMBER 15-29. THE TWO SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS, THE US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE NCUSCR, PROMPTLY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING COMMUNIQUE (WITHOUT COORDINATING WITH DEPARTMENT):

"THE US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE DELEGATION OF MAYORS WHICH HAD PLANNED TO VISIT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC
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OF CHINA FROM SEPTEMBER 15 TO 29, HAS BEEN COMPELLED TO CANCEL ITS VISIT.

"THE DELEGATION OF 14 MAYORS HAD RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM

THE LIAISON OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON AUGUST 21 TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WOULD BE 'INCONVENIENT' FOR THE HOST ORGANIZATION, THE CHINA PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO RECEIVE MAYOR CARLOS ROMERO-BARCELO OF SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO AS A MEMBER OF THL

DELEGATION. THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES SPECIFICALLY LINKED THEIR DECISION TO THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO.

"THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES WERE ASKED URGENTLY TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION IN THE HOPE THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE DELEGATION TO PROCEED AS SCHEDULED. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED TODAY THAT THE CHINESE HOST ORGANIZATION HAS REITERATED THAT IT WOULD BE 'INCONVENIENT' TO RECEIVE THE MAYOR OF SAN JUAN.

"THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION, HAVING FAILED TO RECEIVE FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION BY THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES, HAVE REGRETFULLY DETERMINED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE DELEGATION TO VISIT CHINA UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

"THE US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS BELIEVE THIS DECISION IS NOT IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE US-CHINA EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN THAT IT INTRODUCES A POLITICAL ELEMENT INTO THE EXCHANGES AND INTERFERES WITH THE RIGHT OF THE VISITING PARTY TO SELECT THE MEMBERS OF ITS OWN DELEGATIONS, A RIGHT WHICH THE CHINESE DELEGATIONS HAVE ENJOYED WITHOUT RESTRICTION.

"THE US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS AND THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS EXPRESS HOPE THAT IT MAY YET BE POSSIBLE TO RESCHEDULE THE VISIT OF THIS DELEGATION OF MAYORS AND THAT FUTURE EXCHANGES WILL TAKE PLACE IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE."
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2. PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS MATTER FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN BEING SENT SEPTEL FOR YOUR INFORMATION. HOWEVER, WE PREFER THAT ANY PRESS QUERIES ON THIS SUBJECT BE REFERRED TO DEPARTMENT. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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